

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 72, 83, 87, 89, 97, 103, 141, 147, 149, 150, 154, 158, and 163 without estoppel or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Amend claims 70, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 94, 104, 118, 121, 123, 130, 131, 142, 153 and 164, and add new claims 425-436, as follows:

1-69. (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including (i) a graft having an orifice; and (ii) a plurality of arms extending away from the orifice of the graft, and (iii): a flange portion, with each of the plurality of arms positioned in contact with the flange portion, the method comprising the steps of:

aligning the orifice of the graft assembly with the arteriotomy from outside the blood vessel; and

locating the plurality of arms within the blood vessel through the arteriotomy defined therein.

71. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein at least a part of each of the plurality of arms is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 70, wherein the graft is a synthetic graft.

74. (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including (i) a graft having an orifice, and (ii) a plurality of arms extending away from the orifice of the graft, the method comprising the steps of:

locating the graft within a delivery device; ~~and~~

advancing the delivery device from outside the blood vessel toward the arteriotomy while the graft is located within the delivery device;

aligning the orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy; and

locating the plurality of arms within the blood vessel through the arteriotomy defined therein;

wherein each of the plurality of arms is located in a first position in relation to the graft during the advancing step, and

wherein each of the plurality of arms moves from the first position to a second position in relation to the graft after the advancing step.

76. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein each of the plurality of arms moves from the first position to the second position due to spring action.

77. (Currently Amended) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including (i) a graft having an orifice, and (ii) a plurality of arms including at least four (4) arms extending away from the orifice of the graft, the method comprising the steps of:

aligning the orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy from outside the blood vessel;
and

locating the plurality of arms within the blood vessel through the arteriotomy defined therein.

78. (Original) The method of claim 75, wherein each of the plurality of arms is maintained in the first position by an inner wall of the delivery device.

79. (Cancelled)

80. (Currently Amended) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including a graft and a resilient support secured thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

locating the graft within a delivery device;

advancing the delivery device from outside the blood vessel toward the arteriotomy while the graft is located within the delivery device; and

removing the graft from the delivery device after the advancing step,

wherein the resilient support is maintained in a first configuration during the advancing step, and

wherein the resilient support moves from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action after the advancing step.

81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 80, wherein after the removing step: a first portion of the resilient support is located adjacent to ~~a~~ an interior sidewall of the blood vessel when the resilient support is positioned in the second configuration.

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein after the removing step:

a second portion of the resilient support extends through the arteriotomy in a direction away from the blood vessel when the resilient support is positioned in the second configuration.

83. (Cancelled)

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 82, wherein after the removing step:
all of the first portion is located ~~outside~~ inside of the blood vessel, and
all of the second portion is located outside of the blood vessel.

85. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein:
the graft assembly further includes a flange portion, and
at least some of the resilient support is positioned in contact with the flange portion.

86. (Original) The method of claim 85, wherein the at least some of the resilient support is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

87. (Cancelled)

88. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein the graft is a synthetic graft.

89. (Cancelled)

90. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein the resilient support includes a plurality of spring arms.

91. (Original) The method of claim 90, wherein the plurality of spring arms includes at least four (4) spring arms.

92. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein the resilient support member is maintained in the first configuration due to physical interaction with an inner wall of the delivery device.

93. (Original) The method of claim 80, further comprising the step of inhibiting movement of the graft in a direction away from the blood vessel with the resilient support while the resilient support is positioned in the second configuration.

94. (Currently Amended) A method of placing a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including a graft and a plurality of spring arms, the method comprising the steps of:

aligning an orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy from outside the blood vessel; and
locating the plurality of spring arms adjacent to a wall of the blood vessel.

95. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the plurality of spring arms are located within the blood vessel after the locating step.

96. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the plurality of spring arms are located outside of the blood vessel after the locating step.

97. (Cancelled)

98. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the graft is a synthetic graft.

99. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein each of the plurality of spring arms is located adjacent to an end of the graft.

100. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein each of the plurality of spring arms is located adjacent to the orifice of the graft.

101. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein:
the graft assembly further includes a flange portion, and
each of the plurality of spring arms is positioned in contact with the flange portion.

102. (Original) The method of claim 101, wherein at least a part of each of the plurality of spring arms is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

103. (Cancelled)

104. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 94, further comprising the steps of:
prior to the aligning step, locating the graft within a delivery device; and
advancing the delivery device from outside the blood vessel toward the arteriotomy
while the graft is located within the delivery device,
wherein each of the plurality of spring arms is located in a first position in relation to the graft during the advancing step, and
wherein each of the plurality of spring arms moves from the first position to a second position in relation to the graft after the advancing step.

105. (Original) The method of claim 94, wherein the plurality of spring arms includes at least four (4) spring arms.

106. (Original) The method of claim 104, wherein each of the plurality of spring arms is maintained in the first position due to physical interaction with an inner wall of the delivery device.

107. (Original) The method of claim 94, further comprising the step of inhibiting movement of the graft in a direction away from the blood vessel due to physical interaction between the plurality of spring arms and an interior wall of the blood vessel.

108. (Previously Amended) An anastomosis method for placing in a blood vessel a conduit assembly including a blood-flow conduit having a resilient flange integrally formed on an end thereof, the method comprising:

placing the conduit assembly in an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel in alignment of an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy, with a first portion of the conduit assembly including the resilient flange having resilient members disposed within the blood vessel, and a second portion of the conduit assembly disposed outside of the blood vessel, wherein the resilient members each extends inside the blood vessel radially away from the orifice of the blood flow conduit and in contact with and along the blood vessel.

109. (Previously Amended) An anastomosis method comprising:

placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel;

wherein the conduit assembly includes a blood flow conduit and a resilient member secured thereto; and

wherein the placing step includes the steps of (i) aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy, (ii) locating a first portion of the resilient member within the blood vessel, and (iii) locating a second portion of the resilient member outside of the blood vessel; and

wherein the first portion locating step includes the steps of:
bending the resilient member to a first configuration;
advancing the first portion of the resilient member through the arteriotomy while the resilient member is in the first configuration; and
allowing the resilient member to move from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action after the advancing step.

110.-113. (Cancelled)

114. (Original) The method of claim 108, wherein the blood flow conduit is a synthetic graft.

115.-116. (Cancelled)

117. (Previously Amended) An anastomosis method comprising:
placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel;
wherein the conduit assembly includes a blood flow conduit and a resilient member secured thereto; and
wherein the placing step includes the steps of (i) aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy, (ii) locating a first portion of the resilient member including a plurality of struts within the blood vessel, and (iii) locating a second portion of the resilient member outside of the blood vessel.

118. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 117, wherein the second portion of the resilient member is attached to the ~~graft~~ first portion of the resilient member.

119. (Original) The method of claim 117, wherein the plurality of struts includes at least four (4) struts.

120. (Cancelled)

121. (Currently Amended) A method of positioning a conduit assembly in relation to an arteriotomy in a blood vessel, with the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a strut assembly, comprising the steps of:

placing the blood flow conduit within an interior space of a delivery device; and

advancing a distal end of the delivery device from outside the blood vessel toward the arteriotomy while the blood flow conduit is located within the interior space of the delivery device;

wherein the strut assembly is positioned in a first configuration during the advancing step; and

wherein the strut assembly moves from the first configuration to a second configuration after the advancing step.

122. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the strut assembly includes a plurality of struts.

123. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 122, wherein each of the plurality of struts extend laterally outwardly from an orifice of the blood flow conduit when the strut assembly is positioned in the second configuration.

124. (Original) The method of claim 123, further comprising the step of aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the arteriotomy.

125. (Original) The method of claim 121, further comprising the step of positioning each of the plurality of struts adjacent to a wall of the blood vessel after the advancing step.

126. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein each of the plurality of struts is located within the blood vessel after the positioning step.

127. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein each of the plurality of struts is located outside of the blood vessel after the positioning step.

128. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein each of the plurality of struts is located adjacent to an end of the blood flow conduit.

129. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein:

the conduit assembly further includes a flange portion, and

each of the plurality of struts is positioned in contact with the flange portion.

130. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 129, wherein at ~~lest~~ least a part of each of the plurality of struts is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

131. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 121, wherein the arteriotomy ~~blood~~ vessel is in an aorta.

132. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the graft is a synthetic graft.

133. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the strut assembly moves from the first configuration to the second configuration due to spring action.

134. (Original) The method of claim 122, wherein the plurality of struts includes at least four (4) struts.

135. (Original) The method of claim 121, wherein the strut assembly is maintained in the first configuration due to physical interaction with an inner wall of the delivery device.

136. (Original) The method of claim 121, further comprising the step of inhibiting movement of the blood flow conduit in a direction away from a blood vessel in which the arteriotomy is defined due to physical interaction between the strut assembly and the blood vessel when the strut assembly is in the second configuration.

137. (Previously Amended) A method of locating a conduit assembly in relation to an opening defined in a blood vessel, with the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a plurality of struts, comprising the steps of:

advancing the plurality of struts into the blood vessel through the opening; and

aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the opening defined in the blood vessel, wherein the conduit assembly further includes a flange portion and each of the plurality of struts is positioned in contact with the flange portion.

138. (Original) The method of claim 137, further comprising the step of locating the plurality of struts adjacent to an interior wall of the blood vessel.

139. (Original) The method of claim 138, further comprising the step of urging each of the plurality of struts against the interior wall of the blood vessel.

140. (Previously Amended) A method of locating a conduit assembly in relation to an opening defined in a blood vessel, with the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a plurality of struts, comprising the steps of:

advancing the plurality of struts into the blood vessel through the opening;

aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the opening defined in the blood vessel;

urging each of the plurality of struts against the interior wall of the blood vessel, wherein the urging step includes a step of placing a stent within the blood vessel and adjacent to the plurality of struts to urge the struts against the interior wall of the blood vessel.

141. (Cancelled)

142. (Currently Amended) A method of locating a conduit assembly in relation to an opening defined in a blood vessel, with the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a plurality of struts, the method comprising the steps of:

locating the blood flow conduit within a delivery device;

moving the delivery device from outside the blood vessel toward the opening defined in the blood vessel while the blood flow conduit is located within the delivery device and each of the plurality of struts is located in a first physical arrangement in relation to the blood flow conduit during the moving step;

advancing the plurality of struts into the blood vessel through the opening;

aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the opening defined in the blood

vessel; and

reconfiguring each of the plurality of struts from the first physical arrangement to a second physical arrangement in relation to the blood flow conduit.

143. (Original) The method of claim 142, wherein each of the plurality of struts moves from the first physical arrangement to the second physical arrangement due to spring action.

144. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein each of the plurality of struts is located adjacent to an end of the blood flow conduit.

145. (Cancelled)

146. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 137, wherein each of the plurality of struts is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

147. (Cancelled)

148. (Original) The method of claim 137, wherein the blood flow conduit is a synthetic graft.

149.-150. (Cancelled)

151. (Original) The method of claim 142, wherein each of the plurality of struts is maintained in the first configuration by an inner wall of the delivery device.

152. (Original) The method of claim 137, further comprising the step of inhibiting movement of the blood flow conduit in a direction away from the blood vessel due to physical interaction between the plurality of struts and the blood vessel.

153. (Currently Amended) A method of placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a resilient support secured thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

bending the resilient support into a first configuration,

advancing the resilient support from outside the blood vessel and partially through the arteriotomy while the resilient member is in the first configuration, and

allowing the resilient support to move from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action after the advancing step.

154. (Cancelled)

155. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein the blood flow conduit is a synthetic graft.

156. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein:

the conduit assembly further includes a flange portion;

the resilient support includes at least one arm; and

the at least one arm is positioned in contact with the flange portion.

157. (Original) The method of claim 156, wherein at least one arm is integrally positioned within the flange portion.

158. (Cancelled)

159. (Original) The method of claim 153, further comprising the steps of:

prior to the advancing step, locating the blood flow conduit within a delivery device;

and

advancing the delivery device toward the arteriotomy while the blood flow conduit is located within the delivery device.

160. (Original) The method of claim 153, wherein the resilient support includes a plurality of arms.

161. (Original) The method of claim 160, wherein the plurality of arms includes at least four (4) arms which are spaced apart from each other.

162. (Original) The method of claim 159, wherein the resilient support member is maintained in the first configuration due to physical interaction with an inner wall of the delivery device.

163. (Cancelled)

164. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~163~~ 436, wherein:

the first portion of the resilient support is positioned within the blood vessel, and

the second portion of the resilient support is positioned outside of the blood vessel.

165. (Original) The method of claim 164, wherein the first portion of the resilient support includes a plurality of support arms.

166. (Original) The method of claim 153, further comprising the step of inhibiting movement of the blood flow conduit away from the blood vessel due to physical interaction between the resilient support and the blood vessel after the allowing step.

167-424. (Cancelled)

425. (New) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an aortotomy with the graft assembly including (i) a graft having an orifice; and (ii) a plurality of arms extending away from the orifice of the graft, and (iii) a flange portion, with each of the plurality of arms positioned in contact with the flange portion, the method comprising the steps of:

aligning the orifice of the graft assembly with the aortotomy; and

locating the plurality of arms within the aorta.

426. (New) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including a graft and a resilient support secured thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

locating the graft within a delivery device;

advancing the delivery device toward the arteriotomy while the graft is located within the delivery device in a first configuration; and

removing the graft from the delivery device after the advancing step to move the resilient support from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action, with some of a first portion of the resilient support located adjacent to a sidewall within the blood vessel, and with some of a second portion of the resilient support located outside the blood vessel and extending in a direction away from the blood vessel.

427. (New) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an aortotomy with the graft assembly including a graft and a resilient support secured thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

locating the graft within a delivery device;

advancing the delivery device toward the aortotomy while the graft is located within the delivery device; and

removing the graft from the delivery device after the advancing step,

wherein the resilient support is maintained in a first configuration during the advancing step, and

wherein the resilient support moves from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action after the advancing step.

428. (New) A method of locating a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including a graft and a resilient support secured thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

locating the graft within a delivery device;

advancing the delivery device toward the arteriotomy while the graft is located within the delivery device in a first configuration; and

removing the graft from the delivery device after the advancing step to move the resilient support from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action, with a first portion of the resilient support located adjacent to a sidewall of the blood vessel, and with a second portion of the resilient support extending radially away from an orifice of the graft.

429. (New) A method of placing a graft assembly in relation to an aortotomy with the graft assembly including a graft and a plurality of spring arms, the method comprising the steps of:

aligning an orifice of the graft with the aortotomy; and

locating the plurality of spring arms adjacent to a wall of the aorta.

430. (New) A method of placing a graft assembly in relation to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, with the graft assembly including a graft and a plurality of spring arms, the method comprising the steps of:

aligning an orifice of the graft with the arteriotomy; and

locating each of the plurality of spring arms adjacent to a wall of the blood vessel and extending radially away from the orifice of the graft.

431. (New) A method of locating a conduit assembly in relation to an opening defined in a blood vessel, with the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a plurality of struts positioned in contact with a flange portion, the method comprising the steps of:

advancing the plurality of struts into the blood vessel through the opening to locate the plurality of struts adjacent to an interior wall of the blood vessel; and

aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the opening defined in the blood vessel to position each of the plurality of struts to extend radially away from the opening defined in the blood vessel, wherein the conduit assembly further includes a flange portion and each of the plurality of struts positioned in contact with the flange portion.

432. (New) A method of locating a conduit assembly in relation to an aortotomy with the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a plurality of struts and a flange portion, the method comprising the steps of:

advancing the plurality of struts into the aorta through the aortotomy; and

aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the aortotomy defined in the aorta, with each of the plurality of struts positioned in contact with the flange portion.

433. (New) A method of locating a conduit assembly in relation to an opening defined in a blood vessel, with the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a plurality of struts and a flange portion, the method comprising the steps of:

advancing the plurality of struts into the blood vessel through the opening; and

aligning an orifice of the blood flow conduit with the opening defined in the blood vessel with each of the plurality of struts positioned in contact with the flange portion and extending radially away from the orifice of the blood flow conduit.

434. (New) A method of placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an aortotomy, the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a resilient support secured thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

bending the resilient support into a first configuration;

advancing the resilient support partially through the aortotomy while the resilient support is in the first configuration; and

allowing the resilient support to move from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action after the advancing step.

435. (New) A method of placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit having an orifice and a resilient support secured thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

bending the resilient support into a first configuration;

advancing the resilient support partially through the arteriotomy while the resilient member is in the first configuration; and

after the advancing step, allowing the resilient support to move from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action with the resilient support extending radially away from the orifice of the blood flow conduit.

436. (New) A method of placing a conduit assembly adjacent to an arteriotomy defined in a blood vessel, the conduit assembly including a blood flow conduit and a resilient support secured thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

bending the resilient support into a first configuration;

advancing the resilient support partially through the arteriotomy while the resilient support is in the first configuration; and

after the advancing step, allowing the resilient support to move from the first configuration to a second configuration due to spring action while a first portion of the resilient support is positioned on a first side of the arteriotomy and a second portion of the resilient support is positioned on a second side of the arteriotomy.